

as an oversight group and constantly evaluate results and set aggressive goals for diversity in PDC construction projects.

They've worked with minority business associations to put in place technical assistance agreements to focus on building capacity among historically underutilized businesses. PDC will implement a prompt payment requirement making sure that small contractors get paid quickly for their work, and just last month, PDC implemented a Small Contractor Loan Insurance program that gives small contractors access to working capital through a revolving loan. This will be a huge help to small firms that are struggling to attain credit with banks.

I commend PDC for what they've done, and what they have planned to make sure that public construction projects benefit the entire community and not just a select few.

**RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT  
TIM COPELAND—SCOTTSDALE  
HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO  
MILITARY" HONOREE**

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 22, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of the Armed Forces from my home state of Arizona. Every month, Scottsdale Healthcare honors military personnel who perform diligent service to this country. Scottsdale Healthcare has recognized U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Tim Copeland for the month of February.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such an outstanding service member for his bravery and service to our country.

Copeland has served as an Information Systems Operator and Analyst for the Army since 1992. He has been deployed twice to Kuwait and is currently deployed for a two-year tour at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

During his service Copeland has received numerous awards, all of which serve as a tribute to his honorable character. He has received the Presidential Service Badge, two Joint Meritorious Unit Awards, a Joint Service Commendation medal, two Army Commendation medals and seven Army Achievement medals.

Staff Sergeant Copeland is the brother of Clare Copeland, who works in the Emergency Department Admitting Office at Scottsdale Healthcare. Clare is an avid supporter of the military partnership training program.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the inspiring efforts of this courageous citizen who is serving our country and protecting the lives of his fellow service men and women in combat.

**CONGRATULATING MR. IRA  
LEESFIELD FOR HIS ACCOM-  
PLISHMENTS IN THE LEGAL  
COMMUNITY**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 22, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ira Leesfield

on being a recipient of the American Jewish Committee's Judge Learned Hand Award. This prestigious award honors leaders in the legal profession for both their overall excellence in the workplace and their contributions to the community. Mr. Leesfield has always welcomed the challenge to serve the underserved, and it is this devotion that has earned him one of the American Jewish Committee's highest honors.

Mr. Leesfield carries himself with great integrity, respect, and dedication in everything he does for his profession and for his community. A look into his background shows just how successful he has been on both of these fronts. In 1976, Ira Leesfield founded Leesfield & Partners, dedicating his professional life to protecting the courtroom rights of the firm's clients throughout Florida and the United States. He currently holds record personal injury verdicts and settlements in a plethora of jurisdictions, earning him recognition as one of America's top ten trial lawyers.

However, Mr. Leesfield's interest reaches far beyond monetary figures as he has been recognized for prosecuting cases that benefit the public interest. He has received the American Occupational Rehabilitation Training (ORT) Jurisprudence Award for his dedication to his profession, as well as the prestigious Jurisprudence Award from the Anti-Defamation League for his success in gaining access to the courts for the less privileged. Ira was elected President of both the Melvin M. Belli Society and the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers after receiving each organization's respective awards: the Belli Award and the Al J. Cone Lifetime Achievement Award.

A resident of Florida since 1956, Ira is an American Bar Foundation Fellow, life member of the American Association for Justice as well as the Roscoe Pound Foundation, and a past adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law. Mr. Leesfield's success hits close to home as his many accomplishments have greatly benefited myself as well as the great people of Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, I am truly honored to recognize Mr. Ira Leesfield for his dedication to the legal profession and to the South Florida community as a whole.

**TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE "LARRY"  
KING**

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 22, 2010*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent, Lawrence "Larry" King.

Two years ago this week, Larry was shot by a fellow student while at school in Oxnard, CA.

He died 2 days later. The police classified his murder as a hate crime.

He was 15 years old.

In addition to our local community, almost 200 vigils in all 50 States were held to honor Larry's life.

Two years later, Larry's death continues to remind us of the violence and harassment directed at lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people every day.

This violence is unacceptable anywhere and particularly painful in our schools.

I think every American believes all our children deserve an education free from bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence.

In honor of Larry and all LGBT students, I would like to encourage my colleagues to support the Student Non-Discrimination Act.

This important bill establishes a comprehensive Federal prohibition of discrimination in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

We know that bullying deprives students of equal educational opportunities.

It also causes high rates of absenteeism, dropout, adverse health consequences, and academic underachievement among LGBT youth.

Without interference, bullying and discrimination leads to life-threatening violence and suicide.

Also, when school officials engage in discriminatory treatment, or are indifferent to harassing behavior, LGBT students' constitutional rights are infringed.

This is deplorable.

In Larry's memory, we owe our children nothing less than a safe environment and the support they need to learn most effectively.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF  
THE UNITED STATES**

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 22, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, Whereas, DeKalb County serves as home for many of our Veterans that have served in the United States Military; and

Whereas, forty-nine years ago servicemen who fought in wartime joined forces to form the "VFW Belvedere Post 4706"; and

Whereas, our beloved country, has and continues to benefit from the service of the members of the VFW Post 4706 in the areas of leadership, service and scholarship to our community; and

Whereas, this unique group has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to preserve integrity, advocate for our enlisted service personnel and veterans; and

Whereas, the VFW Post 4706 continues to serve our country by being involved in the planning, organizing and conducting of ceremonies that commemorate and recognize those who served our country in the United States military, our children who desire scholarships to gain higher education and veterans who have fallen to homelessness; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor, recognize and congratulate the VFW Post 4706 on their 49th Anniversary for their outstanding service to our District;

Now therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., do hereby proclaim February 21, 2010, as Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 4706 Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 21st day of February, 2010.